New Literacy Skills

As Michigan transitions to a knowledge-based economy dependent upon technology, Michigan's libraries play a pivotal role in helping people learn new literacy skills. Libraries collect, preserve, index, and provide access to authoritative information for residents and legislators – information moving online and to the internet, but not always available through Google or other search engines.

Michigan residents must have the following skills:

- *Information Literacy-* people must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.
- *Technological Literacy –* people must be able to use technology to communicate, solve problems, and access, manage, evaluate, and create information to acquire lifelong knowledge and skills.
- *Economic Literacy –* people must be able to work, compete, and contribute to the economy and society by developing workplace and entrepreneurial skills.
- *Digital literacy –* people must be able to understand, evaluate, create, and integrate information in multiple digital formats via the computer and Internet.

Why?

The State of Michigan is in a transition to a new economy dependent upon knowledge, technology, literacy and entrepreneurial skills. Michigan residents need, and libraries provide education, technology and information literacy to the masses. The library community serves pre-kindergarten through senior citizens promoting lifelong learning in and outside of the classroom. Libraries offer reading readiness, summer reading programs, tutoring , after-school programming, adult literacy, online tools, ACT testing and more. They serve Michigan's academic, community college and k-12 patrons. They serve charter schools and home-schooling families. They have small business development centers and business librarians who assist small businesses with online market research and more. They provide workforce development tools and assistance such as: computers to submit online job applications; job search materials; computer classes; resume writing and interviewing workshops; career and job testing; and more.

Access

The advent of the digital world has revolutionized how citizens obtain information and how libraries provide it. Libraries help ensure that Americans can access the information they need as the digital world continues to evolve. As local, state and federal government moves more information online, public libraries have assumed a new role for other governmental agencies. These other agencies have

- Health and wellness – learning about medical conditions, finding healthcare providers, diet and nutrition – 37%
- eGovernment –download government forms, connections to govt agencies – employment, unemployment, tax forms, filing for disability, renewing licenses – 34%
- Community engagement – news , community events – 33%
- Managing finances- paying bills, online banking – 25%
- Entrepreneurship – 7%

Significant support is provided by library staff to assist citizens with computer services including:

- Using computer equipment – 51%
- Using library website -34%
- Printing or saving files – 32%
- Finding a specific website – 22%
- Using office programs – 13%
- Connecting to a library's wireless services -12%

(Source: Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at US Libraries, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Information School University of Washington.)

Employment Services

People use libraries regularly to search and apply for jobs online. The Michigan Library Association (MLA) reports that 96% of libraries provide career, job search and resume preparation services at their libraries. MI Works Agencies regularly refer clients to their local libraries for career development services. MLA reports that 78% of public libraries partner in some capacity with MI Works locally and 14 public libraries serve as access points and Service Centers for MI Works. There is no funding for public libraries to provide these services.

E-Government

As mentioned, the state of Michigan is moving more and more of their services online, eliminating public service and directing people to use their library to access state services online. For example, the Michigan Unemployment Agency sent out a DVD a few years ago to every public library telling them how to help citizens trying to apply for unemployment, because they were directing citizens to use their local libraries. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson met with the MLA Board of Directors a year ago to ask for help promoting their new Express SOS.com site where citizens can renew their driver's licenses online, at your local library. She unveiled this new service publicly at the Grand Rapids Public Library earlier this year. Finally, the Governor just yesterday complimented the public library system, acknowledging that people can access job sites, including Pure Michigan Talent Connect, at local libraries.
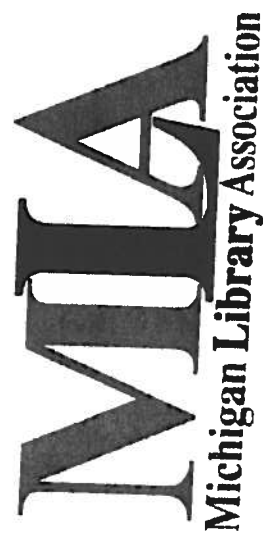
MeLibrary

Finally, every library in the state – public, university, community college and special - is connected to the the MeLibrary (MeL). MeL is a 24-hour virtual resource with material for all ages including over 40

Essential E-services Through Michigan's Libraries

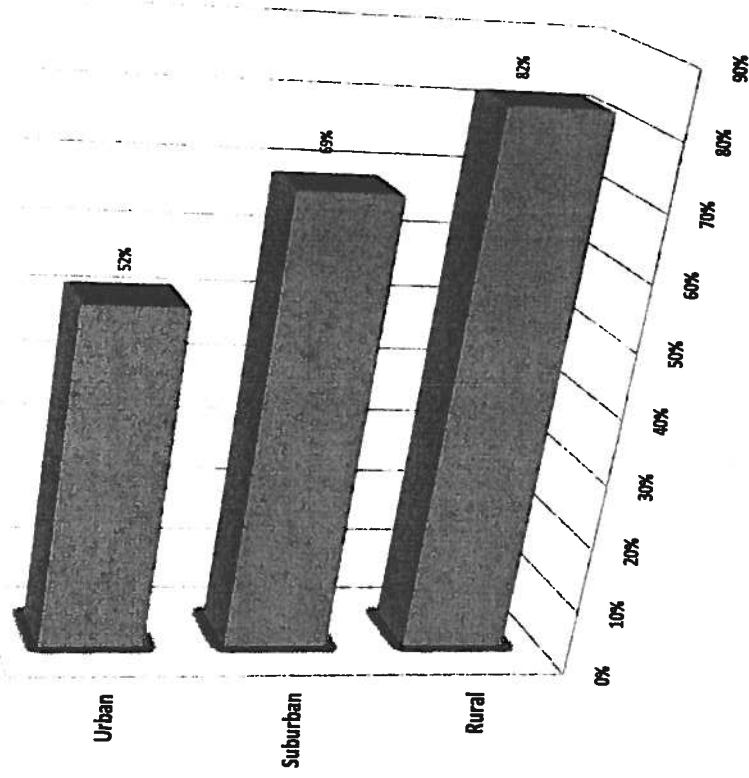## Local, Intergovernmental, and Regional Affairs

January 19, 2012

MLA
Michigan Library Association

MIA
Michigan Library Association

Library Internet/Computer Usage and Access

Michigan Library Internet Access and Users

64% of Michigan libraries – only source of internet access in community

10,145 internet computer terminals in public libraries

14 million internet sessions logged in at public libraries

57 million visitors to public libraries

Source: 09-10 State Aid Report, Library of Michigan and MLA Member Survey 09

Libraries that Report They Are the Only Provider of Free Public Internet Access In Their Community

Urban	52%
Suburban	69%
Rural	82%

(Axis: 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%)

Source: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study, 2008

Employment Services

MLA
Michigan Library Association
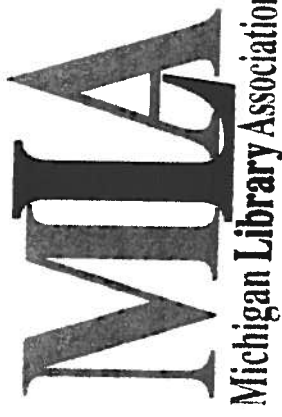
MICHIGAN WORKS!

- People use libraries to search and apply for jobs online at libraries

- 96% of Michigan libraries provide career, job search and resume preparation materials/assistance

- MI Works Agencies refer clients to libraries

- 78% of libraries partner with MI Works locally

- 14 libraries serve as service centers for MI Works

- Ann Arbor District Putnam District, Presque Isle District, Ypsilanti District and Alpena County Libraries are all access points

MIA
Michigan Library Association

Michigan e-Library

Unique users – 1,211,455

Searches in MeL – 385,523,800

MelCat Interlibrary loan – 1,000,000,000

Statewide group purchasing and resource sharing system

Michigan e-Library
History, Arts and Libraries

Michigan.gov Home

MeL | Library of Michigan | MeL Home | Contact | Promotions | MeLCat | About | He

MeL Home | MeL Databases | MeL Catalog | MeL Multilanguage | Featured Resources

Business and Jobs Gateway

- See here for Filing for Unemployment Benefits - To use the on-line service, applicants must be filing a new or additional claim
- MeL has job postings, career exploration resources and job search aids
- MeL has resources that can help you start or grow a business
- MeL has data and information on business and the economy in Michigan, the U.S. and the world

Choose a Category to Find Recommended Web Sites

Careers and Jobs
Cover Letters and Resumes
Employee Satisfaction
Rankings
Exploring Career Preferences
Internships
More

Business and Economic Data

Michigan Personal Finance Resources

Business
Associations
Casinos and Gaming
Corporations

LearningExpressLibrary

Students
Elementary | Middle | High | College

College | Job Search & Preparation | Technology

Search

What Do I Do Now?

- Browsing Tests and Courses: Click on a category on the right to view a list of resources in that topic. To view more specific information on a test or course, click on its name.
- Searching for Tests and Courses: Type the topic that interests you into the search box above.
- Navigate to Other Learning Centers: To jump to another Learning Center, click on the desired Learning Center in the table above.
- Need more Help? Visit the Library Help Center.

College Preparation

The resources below offer the preparation tools and tips every college-bound high school student needs for a smooth and successful admissions process.

Choose your tests and courses from the categories below:

- ACT Preparation
  - ACT English Practice Tests
  - ACT Math Practice Tests
  - ACT Reading Practice Tests
  - ACT Science Practice Tests
  - ACT Writing Practice Tests
- ACT Preparation Courses
- Advanced Placement (AP) Preparation
- CLEP Preparation
- CUNY Skills Assessment Tests Preparation
- PSAT/NMSQT Preparation
- SAT Preparation
- THEA Preparation
- TOEFL iBT Preparation

"Shared Sacrifice" – 76% Cut Since 2000
State Aid to Public Libraries

MLA
Michigan Library Association